

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02557 242334Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /031 W

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R 242302Z JUL 74

FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4836

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2557

EXDIS

FROM AMB BENNETT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, AS, UR, UN

SUBJ: CYPRUS - SOVIET COMMENT ON UNFICYP

1. AUSTRALIAN PERM REP MCINTYRE STOPPED IN TO SEE ME
TODAY TO RELATE A CONVERSATION HE HAD HAD WITH AMB.
SAFRONCHUK, ACTING PERM REP OF USSR. MCINTYRE SAID HE
KNEW WE HAD BEEN CONCERNED BY THE VIEWS ON PART OF
SOME FAVORING EXPANSION OF UNFICYP TO INCLUDE CONTINGENTS
FROM ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES BECAUSE OF OUR WORRY THAT THIS
MIGHT GIVE GROUNDS TO SOVIETS FOR DEMANDING EE
REPRESENTATION OR OTHER GEOGRAPHIC SPREAD IN UNFICYP,
IN LIGHT OF THAT BACKGROUND HE THOUGHT WE WOULD BE
INTERESTED IN EXCHANGE HE HAD HAD YESTERDAY WITH
SAFRONCHUK.

2. MCINTYRE SAID AUSTRALIA HAS FOR LONG TIME HAD
PROBLEMS INVOLVING HER CONTINGENT OF POLICE IN UNFICYP,
BASED ON THE FACT THAT POLICE ARE DRAWN FROM VARIOUS
STATE GOVERNMENTS WHO ARE CONSTANTLY AGITATING TO HAVE
THIS OR THAT INDIVIDUAL RETURN HOME FOR LOCAL ASSIGNMENTS.
ACCORDINGLY, CANBERRA HAS HAD UNDER CONSIDERATION THE
REPLACEMENT OF POLICE BY AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

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PAGE 02 USUN N 02557 242334Z

DURING SECURITY COUNCIL LUNCHEON YESTERDAY MCINTYRE

WAS SEATED BY SAFRONCHUK AND THOUGHT HE WOULD SOUND HIM OUT ON THAT POSSIBILITY. HE EXPLAINED MATTER TO SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE AND ASKED WHETHER SHIFT FROM AUSTRALIAN POLICE TO REGULAR MILITARY FORCES WOULD CAUSE SOVIET ANY PROBLEMS. ACCORDING TO MCINTYRE, SAFRONCHUK'S REACTION WAS MILD AND MATTER OF FACT. HE RESPONDED THERE WERE ASPECTS OF THE UNFICYP OPERATION WHICH DID NOT PLEASE THE SOVIET UNION. HOWEVER IN EVENT OF AUSTRALIAN'S DECISION TO REPLACE POLICE WITH REGULAR MILITARY PERSONNEL, THIS WOULD CAUSE SOVIETS NO PROBLEMS. MCINTYRE SAID THAT SAFRONCHUK'S EXACT WORDS WERE, "THAT WOULD BE A DETAIL WHICH WOULD NOT CONCERN US".

3. COMMENT: SAFRONCHUK, WHEN HE DOES NOT KNOW THE ANSWER TO A QUERY LIKE THE ABOVE, VERY OFTEN RESPONDS IN JUST THE WAY HE DID. LATER WHEN HE CONSULTS WITH HIS ADVISERS OR MOSCOW HE DOES POSE SOVIET OBJECTIONS. THIS MAY BE A CASE IN POINT.

SCALI

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974USUNN02557
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740201-0266
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740720/aaaaaqum.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <30-Sep-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CYPRUS - SOVIET COMMENT ON UNFICYP
TAGS: PFOR, CY, AS, UR, UN, UNFICYP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005